

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 /103 W

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R 070829Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1420

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 1438

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HU

SUBJ: VATICAN POLICY TOWARDS SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

1. SUMMARY: PARTY DAILY RECENTLY CARRIED ARTICLE ON VATICAN EMPHASIZING POSITIVE STEPS TAKEN BY CHURCH TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. ALSO REMINDS VATICAN OF NEED TO COOPERATE WITH "CATHOLIC BELIEVERS AND PRIESTS SUPPORTING SOCIALISM". ARTICLE REFLECTS IMPROVED GOH-VATICAN RELATIONS FOLLOWING REMOVAL OF CARDINAL MINDSZENTY FROM ARCHBISHOP SEAT. END SUMMARY.

2. PARTY DAILY NEPSZABADSAG JUNE 2 CARRIED EDITORIAL ON "VATICAN AND REALITIES OF OUR TIME". ALTHOUGH MUCH OF ARTICLE DEALT WITH RELATIVE MERITS OF POPE JOHN XXIII AND POPE PAUL XI, REAL THRUST OF ARTICLE CONCERNED "REGULATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN VATICAN AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES".

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3. ARTICLE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT "IN PAST YEARS VATICAN

HAS PRESENTED MORE REALISTIC AND SOBER-MINDED TENDENCIES IN RELATION TO SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" AND ALLEGES THAT POPE PAUL, AFTER CONSIDERABLE DELAY, EXTENDED HIS SOLIDARITY TO DRV AND RECOGNIZED GDR AND WESTERN POLISH BORDERS. ARTICLE THEN ADDED APPROVINGLY THAT POPE "RECOGNIZED FACT THAT CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF BELIEVERS FIND IN SOCIALISM REALIZATION OF AIMS THAT ATTRACT THEM".

4. THEN MENTIONED WERE VATICAN TALKS AND PARTIAL AGREEMENTS WITH SEVERAL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES INCLUDING HUNGARY, VISIT IN 1971 OF CARDINAL CASAROLI TO MOSCOW TO SIGN NONPROLIFERATION AGREEMENT, AND RECENT TALKS IN WARSAW "IN INTEREST OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS".

5. CONCERNING HUNGARY, ARTICLE DECLARED "WE ALSO DO NOT UNDER-RATE SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPORTANT STEP BY VATICAN IN WHICH ARCHBISHOP SEAT IN ESZTERGOM DECLARED VACANT, THEREBY RELIEVING JOZSEF MINDSZENTY OF HIS POST". ALL THESE STEPS ARE SAID TO BE IN SELF-INTEREST OF CATHOLIC CHURCH WHICH IS "RECOGNIZING REALITIES OF INTERNATIONAL STATUS QUO". ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY WARNING THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE FOR CHURCH NOT TO LISTEN TO "MASSES, INCLUDING CATHOLIC BELIEVERS AND PRIESTS SUPPORTING SOCIALISM, WHO, OBEYING THE VOICE OF THEIR CONSCIENCE, STAND UP AGAINST SPIRIT OF ANTI-COMMUNISM, WAR AND REACTION".

6. ARTICLE SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT IS ONE OF FEW OCCASIONS IN WHICH VATICAN GIVEN OVERALL RATING AS PROGRESSIVE INSTITUTION. IT IS LESS THAN COINCIDENCE THAT ARTICLE COMES DURING U.S. VISIT OF CARDINAL MINDSZENTY. IT IS PROBABLY INTENDED AS A REMINDER TO FAITHFUL OF POWER REALITIES, I.E., THAT MORE CAN BE GAINED BY COOPERATING WITH GOH THAN BY SUPPORTING VIEWS OF MIGRANT CARDINAL MINDSZENTY.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, SOCIALISM, POLICIES, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BUDAPE01438  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740145-0032  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <08 MAY 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VATICAN POLICY TOWARDS SOCIALIST COUNTRIES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, HU, VT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005